

1 (Applause.)

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Margaret
3 Swartzman.

4 MS. SWARTZMAN: Thank you for coming.
5 I know that the evening is long for all of us,
6 and I can appreciate probably time zones for you
7 were added on.

8 I didn't prepare anything, and I
9 started to think how I wanted to share my
10 experience as a child in America traveling across
11 the country in the summers and listening to all
12 the radio stations and how they changed from
13 community to community from Ohio to Wyoming and
14 what perspective that gave me as an American
15 citizen about what diversity and what being an
16 American means. The community I lived in was
17 very different from the ones that I heard in my
18 journeys. But hearing the voices tonight have
19 really affected me.

20 And so I'm looking at you and I'm
21 thinking, gosh, you look like you're my
22 neighbors, my friends, people who live next door

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1 to me. But then I think of the impact of what
2 your role has on democracy, and I think do you
3 really care about democracy. Why is it that
4 there's this push for this December decision to,
5 you know, allow corporations to have more
6 ownership of the media, which is the foundation
7 of democracy? Maybe you don't care about
8 democracy. Maybe you have an agenda to put a
9 greater stranglehold on the press so either
10 you're going to be rewarded after you leave the
11 Commission financially or well, could it be that
12 you are wanting to have a stronger voice for the
13 drum beats to war with Iran.

14 I mean this is the way my mind -- and
15 I'm just a common citizen. I'm not -- I'm a
16 preschool teacher. I mean this is where my mind
17 is thinking, and I need reassurance that this is
18 not what's really going on. I know you can't
19 answer me, but that's the question.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Don Franks. Don
22 Franks. Damon Diccico.

1 AUDIENCE: What's the number now?

2 MR. DICICCO: Good evening. Thank you
3 for staying late.

4 My name is Damon Diccico, and I'm a
5 graduate student and teaching assistant at the
6 University of Washington Department of
7 Communications. I'm here today to speak against
8 the proposed FCC rules change that would allow
9 for greater consolidation in the ownership of
10 broadcast media.

11 The research of numerous scholars in
12 my field strongly suggests that increasing the
13 concentration of media ownership results in a
14 decrease in a range of views and programs found
15 in our media.

16 Anecdotal evidence of this trend can
17 be found locally at our own King 5 television
18 where a variety of beloved, long running, locally
19 produced programs gradually disappeared within
20 the first two years after King 5 was purchased by
21 Belo, replaced with the same homogenous
22 programming found at other stations around the

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1 country. People in cities across America have
2 had similar experiences.

3 Aside from making our local media
4 landscape less unique and interesting, this
5 narrowing of the media field can only be harmful
6 to the marketplace of ideas upon which any
7 healthy democracy must be founded. The necessity
8 of this marketplace of ideas was the basis for
9 the inclusion of the First Amendment in the
10 United States Constitution. This is undoubtedly
11 why there has been broad bipartisan opposition to
12 rule changes such as these each and every time
13 they've been proposed.

14 The airwaves are a publicly owned
15 resource, and I urge you to listen to the will of
16 the American people as you administer their
17 resource.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you number
21 182, Rick Rosenberry. Dennis Lane. Jarod
22 Winkel.

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1 MR. REDL: Good evening, everybody.
2 My name is J. Redl (phonetic); that's, J to the R
3 e-d-l. I'm a Seattle MC producer and proud
4 member of the 206 Chapter of the Universal Zulu
5 Nation.

6 For me this issue is simple. I think
7 it's safe to stay that everybody here loves
8 America and wants our country to be a better
9 place. We love our ideas, freedoms and
10 democracy, and anybody with an elementary
11 understanding of what the word democracy can see
12 that this media consolidation is a threat to
13 democracy. Anybody who organized it, supports
14 it, and votes for it is a threat to democracy.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. WINKEL: We're supposed to be in
17 this great war on terror, but the closest thing
18 I've ever seen to a terrorist boogeyman here in
19 American are those people who support media
20 consolidation. They clearly serve the
21 corporations and not the people.

22 Clear Channel is a shining example of

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1 media consolidation, and they have effectively
2 killed the radio. They have a very narrow play
3 list for the different genres across the country,
4 and if someone competes with that genre, they buy
5 the station and switch the format.

6 Clear Channel station Q93 does not
7 represent in any shape or form the local hip-hop
8 scene. And in fact, it hinders a treasure trove
9 of positive artists, local artists, and it's
10 actually hurt the development of the Seattle
11 hip-hop scene.

12 I mean, today's media, they try to
13 make you feel small and powerless and
14 insignificant. But screw the guns, bombs and
15 money. This microphone and this right here, this
16 is real power.

17 And I appreciate everyone who came
18 down here to speak up and stand up for all those
19 millions of Americans who can't be here and
20 didn't have this opportunity, and I thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Madeleine Sosin.

1 Sir, I'm calling Madeleine at this
2 moment.

3 MR. LANE: I'm Dennis Lane.

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Pardon me.

5 MR. LANE: I'm Dennis Lane. You
6 called me.

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Oh, okay. Please.

8 MR. LANE: Thank you.

9 Community access to public
10 broadcasting and first do no harm are words that
11 need to be inscribed over the door of the FCC.

12 My name is Dennis Lane, and I've been
13 involved in media broadcasting for over 35 years,
14 and I've been in the development of community
15 broadcasting for over 25 years. Presently I
16 share the unique position of working for
17 community development on both the east and west
18 coasts.

19 About a month ago I did -- I
20 facilitated a meeting up in Harlem where the FCC
21 attended, and we talked about digital television.
22 And we are putting together a series of talks

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1 about broadband, about the FCC, about media
2 development, because it's important to the people
3 in Harlem, and not only in Harlem, but people in
4 general to know more about what's going on right
5 now.

6 This is not just the present and
7 talking about some profits down the road to the
8 next five years or the next three years for
9 corporations. This is about the future of this
10 country. This is about minorities. This is
11 about the intercity, about the rural communities.
12 This is all about them having access to
13 communications, and not communications of today,
14 though we need television and radio, but we need
15 the access to public broadcasting of the future.
16 And if that's not there, then there's no future
17 for the kids, for the youth.

18 And you talk about having voices.
19 People -- when people have no voice, they act
20 out. When a person is not being heard, they get
21 louder. If the loudness doesn't work they get
22 angry. If that anger doesn't work, they get

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1 violent. Now, if you want to see the voiceless
2 Taliban in this country, you keep on doing it.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Madeleine Sosin.

5 MS. SOSIN: What a lot of beautiful
6 intelligence there is in this room tonight. I'm
7 so proud to be here with you all. I didn't know
8 what I was going to say because I just found out
9 about this today. I'm not very happy about that,
10 but I am glad to be here.

11 I think that our democracy is in
12 crisis, a very deep, dangerous crisis. I think
13 that media consolidation is an enemy of
14 democracy. Media consolidation is not a friend
15 of diversity or democracy, which needs many, many
16 viewpoints and real information. I can't
17 remember the last time I was able to turn on my
18 television set or radio station and actually hear
19 real information. And I'm really angry about
20 that. I want that to change.

21 The FCC plays a hugely important role
22 in safeguarding public light. This is our media.

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1 It's our media. This is our democracy.
2 Democracy is what you make it. But we have to be
3 free to practice it. We cannot practice it
4 without real information. I'm an artist. I'm a
5 musician. And I would say the same for culture.
6 We can't practice our culture, if we can't
7 practice it. If we can't express to each other
8 our ideas, our views, our art forms, we are not
9 heard. And that is the state of media today.

10 To make more media consolidation is
11 madness. Actually I think it's quite mad when
12 clearly what we need is so much less. I don't
13 think that we could ask -- I don't think we're
14 asking enough of you frankly. I think we need
15 to ask a lot more of you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. SOSIN: The one thing that
18 comforts me is through all of history, starting
19 in the single cells, evolution has happened
20 because of crisis. Crisis causes evolution.

21 (Applause.)

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

1 Susan Gleason.

2 MS. GLEASON: Thank you,
3 Commissioners, for traveling to Seattle to hear
4 our testimony today for all these many hours.

5 I hope the message is coming across
6 that people in the Northwest care deeply about
7 media diversity. We care enough to travel from
8 throughout the Northwest to be here, from
9 Woodburn, Oregon; from Moscow, Idaho; from
10 Missoula, Montana; and Spokane, Washington,
11 adjusting schedules to be able to attend this
12 hearing on only one week's notice.

13 Even with the short notice over 1,100
14 people attended this event tonight, standing room
15 only with dozens of people waiting in an overflow
16 area. How many more people would have been here
17 tonight if there had been adequate notice, if
18 given enough notice to take time off work,
19 arrange for babysitters, and purchase train and
20 airline tickets? What kind of public process is
21 that, giving one week's notice for a hearing that
22 bears such importance on the future of our media

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1 and truly the future of our democracy.

2 I think it's a cynical process. I
3 think it gives a clear message that you don't
4 expect or really want the public to participate
5 in these decisions.

6 AUDIENCE: That's right.

7 MS. GLEASON: I had the pleasure of
8 hearing the author Joanna Macy last night in San
9 Francisco. I liked what she had to say about the
10 role that we have now, all of us who are alive on
11 the planet today as guardians of the wellbeing of
12 future generations.

13 Well, I think all of us here tonight
14 are guardians for the type of society that future
15 generations will live in, and more pointedly,
16 we're here tonight as guardians for the type of
17 media, exchange of information, and sharing of
18 culture and ideas that future generations will
19 inherit.

20 I offer my gratitude to everyone who's
21 spoken with such passion tonight on behalf of
22 more media diversity, not less. I add my voice

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1 to yours. Please vote no on the media ownership
2 rule changes.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 Livia Jackson. Adam Todd.

6 MR. TODD: I'm number 189.

7 Good evening. My name is Adam Todd.
8 I work at the Seattle Times, although I'm not a
9 journalist. I work in the IT department. And I
10 am here tonight as a private citizen. But
11 realizing that I'm No. 189 and I believe 280
12 people signed up to speak, just by a show of
13 hands, how many people object to the proposed
14 changes the FCC has regarding media ownership?

15 AUDIENCE: All of us.

16 MR. TODD: Thank you.

17 And in fairness to those who are in
18 favor, you can now raise your hands. We have
19 one.

20 Anyway, I'll keep my remarks brief.
21 Further consolidation of the media is not in the
22 public interest. It threatens our democracy,

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1 limits free speech, discourages public policy
2 literacy as well as civic engagement.

3 I object to the FCC relaxing rules to
4 stimulate further media consolidation. The
5 tyranny of the minority must end now. The FCC
6 should not grant the largest media corporations
7 in the world a sustainable and unfair competitive
8 advantage over locally owned media.

9 Thank you.

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Before
11 I call the next people, will the following people
12 come down: Bill Newman, Michael Shurgot, Dick
13 Schwartz, Eileen Duffy, Stuart Wexler, Lyle
14 Courtsal, Eric Tremblay, Randy Rowland, Seana
15 Sperling, and Tim Hesterberg.

16 Nathaniel James.

17 MR. FRANKS: Actually, I think you
18 must have called me. I'm Don Frank.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Pardon me.

20 MR. FRANKS: I'm Don Franks.

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Actually, I did
22 call you. Go ahead.

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1 MR. FRANKS: I'm 19 years old. And
2 when I heard that you were proposing to
3 consolidate media further, it gave me a cold,
4 nervous feeling inside. I couldn't stave away the
5 imaginations of a George Orwell type of society.
6 It reminds me of 1984, the idea that media is
7 going to become more and more funneled.

8 Is there still -- I mean is there a
9 separation between our political system and
10 corporations in the country anymore? Because I
11 strongly object to media consolidation. Why
12 don't you? What reasons do you have? I mean,
13 are you under their pay? What benefits are you
14 or do you think we are going to get from such a
15 merger?

16 As I sit in the seats here and listen
17 to everybody speak, my heart beats harder, and I
18 just wish we had more control over what happens
19 in our country. I feel like we're --

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. FRANKS: I feel like there's three
22 things really that our nation sort of rests upon.

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1 It's -- our media gives us our information, our
2 political system, and the industry. And when
3 these all come together, it's not going to be a
4 tripod anymore. It's going to be one big pillar.
5 And I can already feel things seem wobbly in our
6 nation, and I don't want things to get wobblier.
7 I don't want us to fall over.

8 So please, I would like it more -- I
9 would like it if you had less media consolidation
10 than we do today. I'd like more diversity.

11 So thank you.

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Nathaniel James.
15 Mike Stuart. Bill Newman. Michael Shurgot. Dick
16 Schwartz.

17 MR. SCHWARTZ: Before I make my
18 comments, watching you, Chairman Martin, tonight
19 with that impassive expression on your face for
20 hours and hours, I want to take care of a little
21 business before I make my comments. It's real
22 clear to me that there's a fundamental theme

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1 behind almost everything that's been said tonight
2 and that's that there's a room full of people
3 here who love democracy and are terrified that
4 we're losing it.

5 And I would like to ask you, out of
6 respect for all of those who have come here and
7 under unusual circumstances, to give us a wink or
8 a nod or a thumbs up that you understand that
9 we're not about the arcane rules of the FCC.
10 What we're here for is we are frightened for our
11 democracy. Do you understand that that's what
12 we're saying.

13 CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Do I understand it?

14 MR. SCHWARTZ Do you understand that
15 that's what this room is trying to tell you?

16 CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Yes.

17 MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you.

18 In the past three weeks the president
19 of Pakistan, the president of Georgia, and the
20 president of Myanmar have closed down the press
21 in their countries. And the common thread is
22 they did that because they wanted to reduce the

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1 number of voices available to the people in their
2 country in order to undercut democracy. They've
3 achieved it -- Normally they achieve this, these
4 despots, by ahead of time putting in place rules
5 that make it possible to legally do this when the
6 time comes that they want to do it.

7 And what I would propose to you is, in
8 real life, it's the result that matters not the
9 means. When you put into place rules that make
10 it legal for a few, strong economic entities to
11 control the variety of voices that are available
12 to us, it's no different than when a political
13 strong man puts into place rules that cut down
14 the number of voices. It's the same thing. The
15 result is an undercutting of diverse voices and
16 an undercutting of democracy.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 Eileen Duffy. Eileen Duffy. Stuart
21 Wexler.

22 MR. WEXLER: Commissioner Copps,

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1 Commissioner Adelstein, thank you for putting the
2 interests of your fellow man over the interests
3 of the greediest people in the world.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. WEXLER: What is greed? Greed is
6 not only wanting more money than you need, but
7 the willingness to harm your fellow man or the
8 environment to get more than you need.

9 Commissioner McDowell, Commission
10 Copps Commission -- Commissioner McDowell,
11 Commissioner Martin, I expect you know that you
12 were appointed to serve the interests of the
13 greediest people in the world.

14 I would like to appeal to your
15 humanity. I imagine you have children and want
16 them to live in a healthy world. Our world is as
17 sick as it can be. I expect you know what has
18 become of the media -- what has become of the
19 media consolidation we already have.

20 When the Bush administration followed
21 the advice of Adolf Hilter's propaganda agent
22 Goebbels and repeated his frightening lies over

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1 and over about Iraq's weapons of mass
2 destruction, links to Al-Qaeda, and to the
3 bogeyman Osama Bin Laden, who happened to be from
4 the same Bin Laden family that funded George W.
5 Bush's failed oil company.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. WEXLER: Establishment media
8 repeated those lies of the Bush administration as
9 if they were true. Thanks to corporate media
10 repeating Bush's lies enough -- lies, enough
11 Americans and legislators bought the lies to
12 allow Cheney and Bush to take us into a war no
13 better than Hitler's war. Up to one million
14 civilians are estimated to have been killed and
15 died.

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very
17 much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Lyle Courtsal.

20 MR. WEXLER: If you want this world
21 for your kids -- say no.

22 MS. DUFFY: You called my name before.

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1 My name is Eileen.

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I'm sorry.

3 MS. DUFFY: You called my name before.

4 My name is Eileen.

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Oh, Eileen Duffy.

6 MS. DUFFY: Hello. I'm currently a
7 student at the University of Washington working
8 to get my Bachelor of Science. I first started
9 out at the university majoring in mathematics.
10 And as I looked around the room I found that I
11 was usually one of the only women in the room.

12 And from what I've experienced through
13 many personal experiences with women in my life
14 and through mass media it has been common to
15 portray women as sex objects.

16 I can think of way more girls now who
17 aspire to have these glamorized looks emulating
18 the women portrayed on nearly every television
19 station rather than embracing their individuality
20 and aspiring to become scientists or something
21 empowering.

22 Young men and women are watching

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1 things like the gory, cookie-cutting shows like
2 the Swan on Fox TV or shows like the Man Show
3 that show women who have boob jobs, look like
4 porn stars, and act -- and they don't even -- act
5 like they don't have brains and are put here on
6 earth to please men.

7 At a young age I was diagnosed with
8 alopecia areata. As you can see I have no hair
9 on my body. I know from personal experience that
10 when I was aired on King 5 and KMO News they lied
11 about personal information on purpose to make the
12 story more exciting, and in the newspaper they
13 put blackout marker on one of my teeth to make me
14 look cuter and say that I'd just lost my tooth.
15 And -- Yeah.

16 I also have a young woman friend who
17 just got a nose job at 18 years old to look like
18 some airbrushed, molded bimbo from television.
19 These people owning these corporations are mostly
20 white males who have a profit agenda.

21 I want an agenda focusing on
22 individuality, diversity, and equality between

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1 men and women. I'm against media consolidation,.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Lyle Courtsal.

5 Eric Tremblay.

6 MR. TREMBLAY: Hello. My name is Eric
7 Tremblay. I would like to thank you for holding
8 this hearing and letting it run so late, and I've
9 been up since 3:45 this morning.

10 I just want to talk a bit about the
11 most outrageous instance of corporate censorship
12 that I can think of, and that's the corporate
13 medias non-coverage of the Telecom Act during its
14 passage through Congress. It was covered maybe
15 one time on the evening television news, and this
16 made it virtually invisible for the public. And
17 the public had no knowledge of this from
18 corporate media and no input virtually. It's
19 something that passed in the dark, and it shows
20 from what has followed from it.

21 I'm going to keep my remarks very
22 short.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

4 Randy Rowland. Seana Sperling. Tim
5 Hesterberg.

6 I'm going to read another list of
7 names starting with 201. Sheri Herrndon, Ann
8 Lev, Michael Hobbs, Lee Colleton, David Holland,
9 Jessica Klein, Jessica Bukowski-Staab, Bob
10 Hasegawa -- I think he's spoken -- Joseph Aprile,
11 Christine Virgillo-Emery, Sondra Shulman, Sue
12 Peters, Larry Neilson, Barbara Eisenstein.

13 Sheri Herrndon.

14 MS. HERRNDON: Good evening. My name
15 is Sheri Herrndon. I'm a citizen of the United
16 States of America and Cascadia. And I believe
17 that this meeting is a historical action for two
18 -- It reminds us of two things: The power of the
19 citizenry to voice their will as a sovereign
20 people, and the power of a free press to act in
21 service of that will.

22 And I want to take a 50,000-foot level

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1 perspective, an eagle's eye view, and invite us
2 back to the founding of this country. In 1788
3 the people of Virginia ratified the Constitution
4 of this country. It would serve us well to
5 remember their words. "No power of this new
6 federal government, be it executive, judicial, or
7 legislative, is meant to be superior to our human
8 conscience and a free press."

9 So in other words the governance of
10 this country is based on the powers of a free
11 press and human conscience. These are
12 enlightened words, and they guided this country
13 into its greatness. But we have forgotten this
14 greatness, and we have not lived into the destiny
15 of this country. And our corporate controlled
16 media system has played a foul role in this.

17 There is a profound urgency upon us
18 that we all have voiced tonight, and it requires
19 us to access a deep wisdom to collectively face
20 what we must face as a species on this planet at
21 this time.

22 So we need a media by and for the

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